



DAVID DOSS
District 11

P. O. Box 431
Rome, Georgia 30162
770.291.9191
706.291.1205 (Fax)

sdaviddoss@bellsouth.net

JANUARY 2010

Special Called Board Meeting January 28th—Atlanta, Georgia

The State Transportation Board met January 21st for the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Several of the Board Committees also met earlier on Wednesday including Legislative, Administrative, Public Private Partnership (P3), Intermodal, Finance and Program Delivery.

LEGISLATIVE:

The latest news from the General Assembly seems positive for the Department's 2010 Legislative Agenda.

Transportation funding - Last week, Governor Perdue announced a proposed funding solution that includes \$300 million in bond funding for transportation improvements across Georgia. It would be the first of 10 equal annual installments under the Governor's plan, for an overall commitment of \$3 billion. The debt service would be paid out of the General Revenue, not Motor Fuel. The plan also asks the General Assembly to pass legislation calling for a voter referendum in 2012 on a regional one-cent sales tax increase to pay for road and transit projects.

Alternative Delivery - Senate Bill 305 introduced on January 13th by Senate Transportation Chair Jeff Mullis and others deals with alternative delivery methods and was signed by every member of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Multi-year Construction Agreements - On January 14th, Senator David Shafer and other cosigners including Senators Jeff Mullis, Tommie Williams, Chip Rogers, and Steve Thompson introduced SR 821 dealing with the Department's ability to enter into Multiyear Construction Agreements.

Rural Transportation Coordination - In the 2009 session, Senator Doug Stoner introduced bill SB22 on this issue, and the Department continues to support that effort.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP - P3:

The House and Senate Transportation Committees approved the new rules of the P3 program with a minor change requesting that the Department hold public hearings in each county included in the project boundaries.

Staff is continuing to evaluate the possibility to generate revenue by leasing land for communications towers, and by selling advertising space in rest areas. Both avenues are being investigated, and all legal issues are being researched.

Also, the latest information on the Multi-Modal Passenger Terminal was discussed. The existing Beltline advisory group was briefed on the project and subsequently voted to become the MMPT Advisory Group to GDOT. The Department also secured a contract with a well known specialist in the area that most recently worked with the Florida Department of Transportation on a number of successful projects.

INTERMODAL:

The Phase 2 call for transit projects resulted in \$7.8 million and closed on December 31, 2009. Awards will be announced shortly. The State's five airport projects are all well underway; one is completely finished; two are 99% complete; and the final two will be completed in May 2010.

A report on the value of GDOT rail assets to Georgia was also presented, indicating there are 33 counties that have GDOT rail within their borders and 19 of those have jobs directly related to the rail lines. More than half of those 19 counties are categorized as the poorest in Georgia. The estimated tax revenue for 2009 includes the State, the respective counties and the local school boards, and brings in more than \$88 million from rail-related jobs and businesses. A more detailed study of the impact of GDOT rail lines will be presented in the March Board meetings.

FINANCE:

In mid-January, the Department received the amended FY 2010 and FY 2011 budget from the Governor's Office. This fiscal year's budget was reduced by \$3.8 million in State General Funds and the budget for FY 2011 was reduced by \$7.3 million in State General Funds. The result of these reductions will be significant program cuts.

There is an opportunity to refinance existing Guaranteed Revenue Bonds (GRB) from 2001 and 2003 to realize an estimated savings of \$22 million in interest, while maintaining the original maturity dates. The Board voted to approve this action, and the potential refinance is tentatively scheduled for February 9th.

PROGRAM DELIVERY/CONSULTANT SERVICES:

Several key areas have been addressed including full implementation of the recommendations from the Right of Way Audit. The most significant steps were revamping the TPRO project tracking system, establishing Division Performance Measures and creating a "Best Practices" manual that consolidated over 800 existing memos on procedures and operations.

The Department also received approval from FHWA on supplementing OEL Staff by using contractors, and successfully relocating the OEL office to the GO. Contractors will be used initially on Ecology and Air & Noise documents.

The Project Management Office is fully operational and all projects will be moved under the Office no later than February 28, 2010.

QUICK LETTING FACTS & ARRA UPDATES

For FY2010, the Department has let 182 projects and 605 State Aid projects. The 182 regular GDOT lettings are valued at over \$519 million, and the State Aid projects at an additional \$56 million. There are 29 projects approved for the February letting including 14 ARRA projects with five of those in economically distressed areas of the State. Over \$97 million is in the letting and \$38 million is regular programming funds.

Results of Phase 1 ARRA project selections:

Of the \$444 Million that GDOT allocated to projects in Phase 1:

- ◆ 55% of funding is for projects located in EDAs
- ◆ 96% of funding is for projects that will be completed prior to February 17, 2012
- ◆ 90% of funding obligated prior to June 17, 2009
- ◆ 46% of funding is for projects requested by local governments

Results of Phase 2 ARRA project selections:

Of the \$473 Million that GDOT allocated to projects in Phase 2: (includes funds rolled back in from Phase 1)

- ◆ 71% of funding on "Locally Requested" projects
- ◆ 62% of funding in Economically Distressed Areas
- ◆ 100% will be completed prior to February 17, 2012



Board Meeting February 18th—Atlanta, Georgia